United Nations E/2012/L.29

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
26 July 2012

Original: English

Substantive session of 2012
New York, 2-27 July 2012
Agenda item 6 (b)
Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits: review and coordination of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Luis Alfonso de Alba (Mexico), on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution E/2012/L.12

Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Istanbul Declaration[1] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020,[2] adopted by the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and endorsed by the General Assembly through its resolution 65/280 of 17 June 2011, in which the Assembly called upon all the relevant stakeholders to commit to implementing the Programme of Action,

Reaffirming the overarching goal of the Istanbul Programme of Action of overcoming the structural challenges faced by the least developed countries in order to eradicate poverty, achieve internationally agreed development goals and enable graduation from the least developed country category,

Recalling the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, entitled "The future we want",

Recalling also its resolution 2011/9 of 22 July 2011 on the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 66/213 of 22 December 2011,

[1] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May 2011* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 11.II.A.1), chap. I.

[2] Ibid., chap. II.

Please recycle

Recalling the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2012 on the theme "promoting productive capacity, employment and decent work to eradicate poverty in the context of inclusive, sustainable and equitable economic growth at all levels for achieving the Millennium Development Goals",

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011 to 2020;[3]

2. *Reaffirms* the commitment made by the international community in the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held at Rio de Janeiro to assist the least developed countries in their efforts to achieve sustainable development, and also reaffirms the agreement to effectively implement the Istanbul Programme of Action[2] and to fully integrate its priority areas into the framework for action, the broader implementation of which will contribute to the overarching goal of the Programme of Action of enabling half of the least developed countries to meet the criteria of graduation by 2020;

3. *Expresses concern* that the ongoing impact of the economic and financial crisis demonstrates the need for appropriate regional and international support to be deployed in a timely and targeted manner to complement the efforts of the least developed countries aimed at building resilience in the face of economic shocks and mitigating their effects;

4. *Reaffirms* that building a critical mass of viable and competitive productive capacity, in agriculture, manufacturing and services, is essential if the least developed countries are to benefit from greater integration into the global economy, increase their resilience to shocks, sustain inclusive and equitable growth and eradicate poverty, achieve structural transformation and generate full and productive employment and decent work for all;

5. *Notes* the efforts made by the least developed countries towards full-employment and decent work for all and expresses its concern that, despite considerable efforts, they are yet to generate a sufficient number of decent jobs for their growing working-age populations, including because of the structural constraints of their economies, and in this regard encourages further action by the least developed countries to strengthen the productive capacities, as outlined in the Istanbul Programme of Action, and recalls the commitments made by the development partners in the Programme of Action to provide, inter alia, enhanced financial and technical support to the least developed countries to develop productive capacities, in order to support the efforts of the least developed countries to achieve structural transformation and generate full and productive employment and decent work for all;

6. *Stresses* the importance of undertaking policy measures on social protection in the least developed countries in order to achieve the goal of enhancing social protection systems to improve the resilience of all, including poor and disadvantaged groups, as set out in the Istanbul Programme of Action, and in this regard reiterates the commitments made by the least developed countries and their development partners in the Programme of Action;

---

[3] A/67/88-E/2012/75.

7. *Welcomes* progress made by many least developed countries in implementing the Programme of Action including by mainstreaming it into relevant planning documents and development strategies, and calls upon the least developed countries, with the support of their development partners, to fulfil their commitments and to promote implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, including by integrating its provisions into their national policies and development frameworks and conducting regular reviews with the full involvement of all key stakeholders, and in this regard invites the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council, including United Nations regional and functional commissions, the United Nations resident coordinator system and the United Nations country teams, to actively support the integration and the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action;

8. *Also welcomes* the progress in mainstreaming the Istanbul Programme of Action into the development cooperation frameworks of development partners, and calls upon the development partners to further integrate the Programme of Action into their respective national cooperation policy frameworks, programmes and activities, as appropriate, to ensure enhanced, predictable and targeted support to the least developed countries, as set out in the Istanbul Programme of Action, and the delivery of their commitments, and to consider appropriate measures to overcome shortfalls or shortcomings, if any;

9. *Notes* that official development assistance continues to be the largest source of external financing for the development of least developed countries and plays an important role in their development, also notes that progress has been made during the past decade in increasing the flow of official development assistance to least developed countries, underlines the fact that the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments is crucial, including the commitments by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to developing countries by 2015 as well as the target of 0.15 per cent to 0.20 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to the least developed countries, and urges developed countries that have not yet done so to fulfil their commitments for official development assistance to least developed countries;

10. *Welcomes* steps to improve the effectiveness and quality of aid in least developed countries, and underlines the need for enhancing the quality of aid by strengthening national ownership, alignment, harmonization, predictability, mutual accountability and transparency, and results orientation;

11. *Calls upon* the least developed countries, their development partners, the United Nations system and all other actors, to fully and effectively implement the commitments that have been made in the Istanbul Programme of Action in its eight priority areas, namely, productive capacity, agriculture, food security and rural development, trade, commodities, human and social development, multiple crises and other emerging challenges, mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity-building, and good governance at all levels, in a coordinated, coherent and expeditious manner;

12. *Also calls upon* the least developed countries, in cooperation with their development partners, to broaden their existing country review mechanisms,

including those for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, the implementation of poverty reduction strategy papers, common country assessments and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, and the existing consultative mechanisms to cover the review of the Istanbul Programme of Action;

13. *Invites* all organizations of the United Nations system and other multilateral organizations, including the Bretton Woods institutions and international and regional financial institutions, to contribute to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action and to integrate it into their programmes of work, as appropriate and in accordance with their respective mandates, and to participate fully in its review at the national, subregional, regional and global levels;

14. *Calls upon* the developing countries, guided by the spirit of solidarity and consistent with their capabilities, to provide support for the effective implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in mutually agreed areas of cooperation within the framework of South-South cooperation, which is a complement to, but not a substitute for, North-South cooperation;

15. *Invites* the private sector, civil society and foundations to contribute to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in their respective areas of competence in line with the national priorities of the least developed countries;

16. *Welcomes with appreciation* the decisions taken by various United Nations system organizations, including the International Atomic Energy Agency, the International Telecommunication Union, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Development Programme, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Office for Project Services, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, the World Food Programme, the World Intellectual Property Organization and the World Meteorological Organization, to mainstream the Istanbul Programme of Action and integrate its relevant provisions into their work programmes, and in this regard invites the governing bodies of all other United Nations funds and programmes and specialized agencies to do the same in an expeditious manner, as appropriate and in accordance with their respective mandates;

17. *Reiterates* its request to the Secretary-General to include the issues of concern to the least developed countries in all relevant reports in the economic, social, environmental and related fields in order to support the implementation of the goals set out in the Istanbul Programme of Action;

18. *Underlines* the need to give particular attention to the issues and concerns of the least developed countries in all major United Nations conferences and processes;

19. *Notes* the work done by the ad hoc open-ended working group to further study and strengthen the smooth transition process for the countries graduating from the least developed country category;

20. *Recalls* the request of the General Assembly to the Secretary-General to take the steps necessary to undertake a joint gap and capacity analysis on a priority basis by 2013 with the aim of establishing a technology bank and science,

technology and innovation supporting mechanism dedicated to the least developed countries, building on existing international initiatives;

21. *Underlines* the need to take the steps necessary to ensure the mutual accountability of the least developed countries and their development partners for delivering their commitments undertaken under the Istanbul Programme of Action;

22. *Reaffirms* its decision to include in its annual ministerial review, in 2015, a review of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action;

23. *Reiterates* that the Development Cooperation Forum should continue to take into consideration the Istanbul Programme of Action when it reviews the trends in international development cooperation, as well as policy coherence for development;

24. *Strongly encourages* giving appropriate consideration to the special needs and development priorities of the least developed countries, including those contained in the Istanbul Programme of Action, in the processes devoted to the definition of the post-2015 development agenda;

25. *Invites* the relevant United Nations regional commissions and agencies to undertake biennial reviews of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, the first one of which to be undertaken in 2013, in close coordination with the global-level and country-level follow-up processes and in cooperation with subregional and regional development banks and intergovernmental organizations;

26. *Encourages* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, major groups and other donors to contribute to the Trust Fund[4] in a timely manner to support the implementation, follow-up and monitoring of the Istanbul Programme of Action as well as the participation of the representatives from the least developed countries in the annual review meeting on the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action by the Economic and Social Council as well as in other relevant forums, and in this regard expresses its appreciation to those countries that have made voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund;

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2013, under the sub-item entitled "Review and coordination of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020", a progress report on the implementation of the Programme of Action.

[4] Trust Fund in support of the activities undertaken by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.